

Message Text

PAGE 01 OSLO 03868 190949Z

17 11
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 USSS-00 /031 W
----- 021804

P 181518Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7261
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T OSLO 3868

EXDIS

COPENHAGEN FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR XF NO UR OVIP (STOESSEL, WALTER)
SUBJECT: U.S.-NORWEGIAN CONSULTATIONS: MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

BEGIN SUMMARY. NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND TOLD ASSISTANT SECRETARY STORESSEL ON OCTOBER 17 THAT HE PLANS TO EXPRESS TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR NORWEGIAN CONCERN OVER THE SOVIET ARMS RESUPPLY OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES. FRYDENLUND VOICED ALARM, HOWEVER, OVER THE U.S. BRIEFING TO THE NAC ON THE MIDEAST SITUATION AND ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER A JOINT WESTERN REACTION TO CURRENT SOVIET CONDUCT MIGHT NOT BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. NORWAY'S MAIN ROLE IN THE MIDEAST IS AS A PROVIDER OF PEACEKEEPING FORCES, AND TO REMAIN ACCEPTABLE IN THIS ROLE IT MUST DIVORCE ITS CONCERNS OVER THE ATLANTIC ASPECTS OF THE CRISIS FROM TAKING SIDES IN THE CONFLICT ITSELF. STOESSEL STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF DEMONSTRATING TO THE SOVIETS THAT DETENTE IS A TWO-WAY STREET. END SUMMARY

1. DURING HIS HOUR-LONG MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL AND THE AMBASSADOR OCTOBER 17, NORWEGIAN FOREIGN SECRET

PAGE 02 OSLO 03868 190949Z

MINISTER KNUT FRYDENLUND SAID NORWEGIANS WERE "ALARMED" BY AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD'S REPORT TO THE NAC ON SERIOUSNESS OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND ASKED FOR CURRENT U.S. VIEWS. STOESSEL EXPRESSED U.S. CONCERN AT SOVIET PERFORMANCE IN

MOUNTING MASSIVE AIRLIFT, WHICH MEANT U.S. HAD TO BEGIN RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL IN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN MILITARY BALANCE SO THAT PRESSURES MIGHT BEGIN TO MOVE BOTH SIDES TOWARD A DIPLOMATIC SETTLEMENT AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT PEACE.

2. STOESSEL EMPHASIZED THAT THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AND OF CONTINUED EFFORTS AT DETENTE IS ONE THAT AFFECTS NOT JUST THE U.S. BUT THE NATO ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE. IT IS IMPORTANT, HE SAID, TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE SOVIETS THAT DETENTE IS A TWO-WAY STREET; RUMSFELD'S NAC STATEMENT WAS AN APPEAL FOR SOLIDARITY AND UNDERSTANDING ON THAT POINT. ASKED BY FRYDENLUND WHETHER THERE IS SOME KIND OF U.S.-SOVIET UNDERSTANDING OR MUTUAL CONSENSUS ON ESCALATION AT AN EVEN PACE WHICH WOULD KEEP THE SITUATION FROM GETTING OUT OF CONTROL, STOESSEL RESPONDED THAT THE U.S. HOPES THAT THE SOVIETS ARE ANXIOUS NOT TO LET THE SITUATION GET OUT OF CONTROL. HE STRESSED THAT U.S. EFFORTS ARE LIMITED TO RESUPPLY AND THAT THE U.S. HAS NO INTENTION OF PUTTING IN MEN.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THE NAC DISCUSSION RAISED QUESTIONS OF BOTH FORM AND SUBSTANCE. FORMALLY, THE MIDDLE EAST IS OUTSIDE THE NATO AREA--THOUGH IT IS OBVIOUS THE WAR IS REACHING A MAGNITUDE WHICH BEGINS TO BE OF CONCERN TO ALL NATO MEMBERS. AS FOR SUBSTANCE, HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER IT IS WISE FOR THE WESTERN COUNTRIES TO ACT AS A BLOC IN THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARD THE SOVIETS AND WONDERED WHETHER JOINT ACTION, FOR EXAMPLE WITH REGARD TO CSCE, MIGHT NOT BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

4. STOESSEL OBSERVED THAT WE ARE WITNESSING SOVIET CRISIS-RELATED CONDUCT WHICH SEEMS TO BE QUITE DANGEROUS AND WHICH AFFECTS US ALL. THEY ARE PROFESSING DETENTE BUT ACTING IN AN OPPOSITE WAY. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD SUCH CONDUCT SHOULD BE BROUGHT HOME TO THE SOVIETS; IF THEY ARE GOING TO
SECRET

PAGE 03 OSLO 03868 190949Z

CONTINUE THIS ADVENTUROUS POLICY IN THE MIDEAST, THEY MAY HAVE TO PAY A PRICE, IN TERMS OF THEIR DESIRES FOR SUCH MATTERS AS MORE TRADE AND A SUCCESSFUL CSCE. TO MAKE THIS POINT EFFECTIVELY, HOWEVER, ALL THE ALLIES WILL HAVE TO ACT CONSISTENTLY. AT THE SAME TIME, STOESSEL OBSERVED, WE ARE WELL AWARE OF THE DANGERS IN THE SITUATION AND ARE CONSTANTLY URGING MODERATION; OUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS ARE CAREFULLY PHRASED TO AVOID ANY JUDGMENT THAT DETENTE HAS BEEN VIOLATED. POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL VIBE OBSERVED THAT IT WAS THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THAT ATTITUDE AND AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD'S STATEMENT THAT HAD SURPRISED THE NORWEGIANS, TO WHICH STOESSEL RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS NO INCONSISTENCY; WHAT WE ARE URGING IS THAT OUR CONCERNS

BE BROUGHT HOME, QUIETLY, TO THE SOVIETS.

5. VIBE ELABORATED NORWEGIAN CONCERNS BY NOTING THAT NORWAY'S ONLY ROLE IN THE MIDEAST IS AS A CONTRIBUTOR OF PEACEKEEPING FORCES. TO CONTINUE THIS ROLE, NORWAY MUST REMAIN ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH PARTIES. IN PREVIOUS NATO DISCUSSIONS OF THE MIDEAST, THERE HAS BEEN A DISTINCTION BETWEEN AREA PROBLEMS AND THE ATLANTIC ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM; ANY POSITION IN NATO THAT NORWAY WOULD SUBSCRIBE TO WOULD HAVE TO BE DIVORCED FROM THE CONFLICT AS SUCH. VIBE THOUGHT THE NORWEGIANS MIGHT TELL THE SOVIETS THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ARMS SUPPLY BUT NORWAY CANNOT SEEM TO TAKE SIDES IN THE CONFLICT.

6. FRYDENLUND (WHO HAD BEEN IN OFFICE ONLY 24 HOURS) SAID HE AGREED WITH THE POINTS JUST MADE BY VIBE AND THAT HE WOULD IN TURN MAKE THEM TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR WHOM HE WAS TO SEE ON OCTOBER 18. MR STOESSEL SAID THAT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL.

7. THIS TELEGRAM WAS DRAFTED AFTER ASSISTANT SECRETARY

STOESSEL'S DEPARTURE FOR COPENHAGEN. BYRNE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, EQUIPMENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OSLO03868
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750018-0862
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731065/abqcceghg.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OSLO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S.-NORWEGIAN CONSULTATIONS: MIDDLE EAST CRISIS
TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, XF, NO, UR, US, (STOESSEL, WALTER)
To: STATE INFO COPENHAGEN
MOSCOW
NATO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005